(d) Part of Karnataka received less rainfall during current South-West monsoon period resulting in drought like situation. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking Central assistance in the wake of drought, an Inter-ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas from 31st July to 3rd August, 2001 for assessment of the situation. Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for 2001-2002 amounting to Rs. 58.72 crore has been released to the State.

Facilities to food processing sector in A.P.

3525. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended loan and other facilities to food processing sector in Andhra Pradesh, so as to enable the sector to manufacture higher value-added products, with lesser investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Financial assistance of around Rs. 674.00 lakhs was provided to different projects received from Andhra Pradesh for the development of food processing industries during the Ninth Plan period.

Demand for bio-fertilizers

†3526. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHAKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bio-fertilizers in the country are more in demand in the agricultural sector, than the chemical fertilizers;

(b) whether the present fertilizer producing units are unable to meet the demand for bio-fertilizers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure easy supply of fertilizers to farmers at low price?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.